

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in Figure 4, the specification at paragraph [0031], and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 4, and 6-11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6, 7, 11, and 24 of U.S. Patent No. 7,388,627 to Hoshino et al. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants are simultaneously filing herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over the cited reference, thus obviating the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over E.P. 1,028,359 to Shiozawa et al. ("Shiozawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent claims 1 and 8-11 have been amended to recite, "a multilayer film in which light transparent films having a first refraction index and light transparent films having a second refraction index are alternatively laminated." Shiozawa at least fails to teach or suggest the multilayer film recited in amended claims 1 and 8-11.

Specifically, Shiozawa fails to teach or suggest the "blue shift" effect that occurs with the discrimination medium of claims 1 and 8-11. For example, Figure 4 of the specification, shown below, clearly demonstrates this effect.

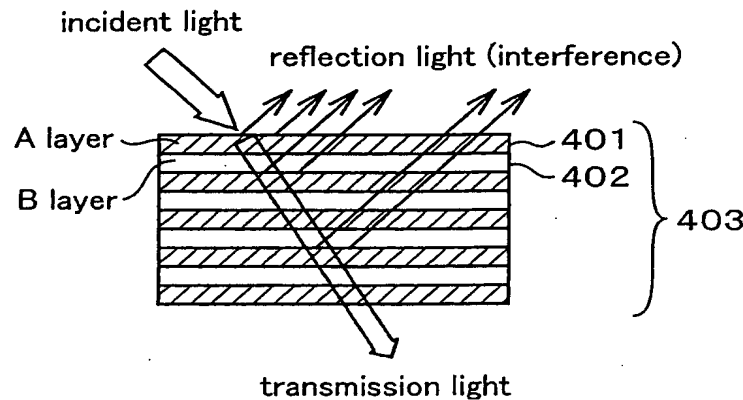


Figure 4 represents a multilayer film 403 wherein the A layers 401 and the B layers 402 are alternatively laminated. The A layers have a first refraction index and the B layers have a second refraction index.

When white light is irradiated on the multilayer film, incident light is reflected at the interfaces of the films differing in refraction index based on Fresnel's law. In the example represented by Figure 4, one portion of the incident light is reflected at the interface between the A layer and the B layer, and another portion of the incident light passes therethrough. Because there is such an interface between each of the A layers and the B layers, interferences occur between reflection light at each interface. The larger the angle of the incident light, the shorter the optical path difference of the reflection light reflected by each interface. The interference of each light of the shorter wavelength occurs and the intensity of the light of the shorter wavelength is thereby increased. Therefore, the more obliquely the multilayer film on which white light is viewed, the shorter the wavelength of the light that is strongly reflected by the multilayer film. Specifically, the more oblique the multilayer film on which white light is irradiated, the more blue the reflection light becomes that is reflected by the multilayer

film. This phenomenon is called "blue shift." Shiozawa does not teach or suggest at least the above-described features.

Moreover, Shiozawa does not teach a discrimination medium wherein when natural light is irradiated on the discrimination medium, the reflection light includes right-handed circularly polarized light and left-handed circularly polarized light. Shiozawa fails to teach a cholesteric liquid crystal layer that selectively reflects predetermined circularly polarized light and a multilayer film that does not selectively reflect circularly polarized light having a circular polarization direction opposite to that of the predetermined circularly polarized light. In other words, Shiozawa fails to teach or suggest a discrimination medium that reflects right-handed circularly polarized light, left-handed circularly polarized light, and linearly polarized light.

Claims 1 and 8-11 would not have been rendered obvious by Shiozawa. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Shiozawa. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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